



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 20 February 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.whitehouse.gov/homeland)

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Daily Overview

- The Advocate reports bank officials in New Jersey are warning customers that someone posing as a bank security officer has been calling people and asking for private financial information. (See item [6](#))
- CNN reports according to a study released by an advocacy group for the transportation industry, the number of traffic bottlenecks on U.S. highways and interstates has risen 40 percent in five years. (See item [7](#))
- Reuters reports under a plan being developed by government officials, the U.S. Postal Service could be dispatched to deliver antibiotics to people in their mail in the event of a biological attack. (See item [15](#))
- CNET News.com reports security researchers have warned that three separate security flaws could be used by an ordinary user to gain total control of a Linux server or workstation. (See item [26](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

February 19, Bloomberg News — **Power-grid alert system is upgraded. The Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, blamed by U.S. and Canadian investigators for failing to help prevent North America's biggest blackout, said Wednesday, February 18, it has a new computer monitoring system that would have contained the August 2003 power failure. A computer called the "state estimator" -- which is used to help operators identify when transmission lines are overloaded or power plants have shut down -- has been upgraded,** said Jim Torgerson, chief executive of the group. Federal regulators want to ensure that the Midwest grid operator is improving operations before this summer, when electricity demand peaks because of hot weather. "I'm very pleased with the state estimator," said Pat Wood, chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The system isn't required for other grid operators, Wood said. "I think that will change," he added. The grid operator also added alarm systems at the control room near Indianapolis, IN, which start blinking when a power line or plant goes down, and audible alerts sound around the operators. The operators then call utilities and ask them to make changes.

Source: <http://www.ohio.com/mld/ohio/business/7987910.htm>

2. *February 19, Globe and Mail (Canada)* — **Technical glitch hits NYMEX. Trading at the New York Mercantile Exchange ended early Thursday, February 19, because of technical problems.** Initially, the exchange was to reopen at noon after a half-hour trading halt, but it later said it would end the day early after a shortened session. The exchange, the world's biggest energy exchange, ultimately reopened from 12:15 p.m. EST to 12:45 p.m. EST for a post-close session. Trading normal continues until 2:30 p.m. The disruption hit around 11:30 a.m. and was blamed on what the exchange described simply as "technical problems." **Both the Comex and Nymex divisions of the exchange were affected.**

Source: http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040219.wny_mex0219/BNStory/Business/

3. *February 18, Oil & Gas Journal* — **LNG complex explosion caused by gas pipeline leak. A gas pipeline leak, not a boiler malfunction, was officially deemed the cause of an explosion last month at the Skikda, Algeria, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) complex, Algerian Energy and Mines Minister Chakib Khelil has said.** The blast killed 27 people, injured 74 others, destroyed three of the six LNG trains at the complex, and heavily damaged a nearby berth for loading LNG tankers. Officials at Sonatrach, Algeria's state-owned oil and gas company, initially had blamed a faulty boiler for the explosion. The blast caused worldwide repercussions for planned and existing LNG projects, as sponsors rushed to reassure neighboring populations and investors of the safety of their facilities.

Source: http://ogj.pennnet.com/articles/web_article_display.cfm?ARTICLE_ID=198948

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *February 19, Federal Computer Week* — **Roche seeks better air tracking. Air Force Secretary James Roche wants to improve the service's tracking of allies' aircraft and the targeting of enemy ones. Roche called for the development and fielding of three wide-body aircraft, called the E-10, that would feature advanced sensor and command, control and communications systems.** His strategy comes six weeks before the Air Force will award a contested \$400 million information technology contract to automate the data processing of enemy ground targets detected by sensors and the operation of radar that can penetrate clouds and tree cover, Battle Management Command and Control System (BMC2). The deal follows three contract awards to develop the airframe and IT systems on the Multi-Sensor Command and Control Aircraft, called the MC2A. The E-10A would include the Multi-Platform Radar Technology Insertion Program with a four-foot aperture, the Weapon System Integration Program and the BMC2. The E-10B would combine an air moving target indicator sensor. The E-10C would merge the capabilities of the MC2A and the Rivet Joint aircraft. "There you have it: An E-10 series, each of which would share a common integration and BMC2 suites — the MC2A," said Roche.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0216/web-bmc2a-02-19-04.asp>

5. *February 19, Reuters* — **Russia says new missile will defeat any U.S. defenses. Russia has developed ballistic missile technology that can outwit any defensive system, a top Russian general said on Thursday, February 19, in a challenge to the United States' planned \$50 billion anti-missile shield. First Deputy Chief of Staff Colonel-General Yury Baluyevsky said that during large-scale military exercises on Wednesday, February 18, Russia had test-launched a missile system that could maneuver in mid-flight, allowing it to dodge defenses.** "The test carried out yesterday confirmed that we can build weapons which will render any anti-missile system defenseless against an attack by Russia's strategic forces," he said. "It's part of our unilateral response to the creation or future creation of a missile defense system by any state or bloc of states," he said. Baluyevsky said Russia was not opposed to missile shields and reiterated remarks by President Putin, who said on Wednesday that Russia was not too worried about the U.S. plan and cooperation between the two countries was good.
Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/rc/040219/russia_missile_shield_1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *February 19, The Advocate (NJ)* — **Area bank officials warn of new scam. Bank officials in New Jersey are warning customers that someone posing as a bank security officer has been calling people and asking for private financial information. Park National Bank officials said they received about a dozen calls on Tuesday, February 17, from customers reporting a person called them asking for credit card numbers, Social Security numbers and other confidential information.** Cheryl Snyder, senior vice president of Park National Bank, said banking regulators have been notified of the incidents. Thus far, no one has reportedly been scammed out of money or has had their identity stolen, she said. Bank officials have not been able to identify where the calls originated, Snyder said. Park National Bank has an estimated 50,000 customers.
Source: <http://www.newarkadvocate.com/news/stories/20040219/localnews/442557.html>

Transportation Sector

7. *February 19, CNN* — **Study: Bottlenecks choking U.S. roadway. The number of traffic bottlenecks on U.S. highways and interstates has risen 40 percent in five years, according to a study released Thursday, February 19, by an advocacy group for the transportation industry.** There are now 233 major bottlenecks compared with 167 when the previous study was published in 1999. The study commissioned by the American Highway Users Alliance also notes that seven of the 18 previous top bottlenecks had disappeared as a result of construction projects. Traffic clogs have been eliminated in Houston, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Denver, Colorado; Boston, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; Los Angeles, California; and Washington, DC. **The worst bottleneck is the Ventura Freeway at Interstate 405 in Los Angeles.** In 1999, the Ventura Freeway ranked No. 5. Four of the 10 worst bottlenecks are in the Los Angeles area. **After the Ventura Freeway, the worst bottlenecks were the Interstate 610–Interstate 10 interchange in Houston; Chicago's I–90/94–I–290 interchange; the I–10 interchange with state roads 51 and 202 in Phoenix; and the San Diego Freeway–Interstate 10 interchange in Los Angeles.**

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/02/19/bottleneck.study/index.html>

8. *February 19, Reuters* — **Third day of Paris flight chaos. A strike by French air traffic controllers caused travel chaos for the third successive day, forcing many flight cancellations and delays for passengers at Orly and Charles de Gaulle airports near Paris.** A spokesman for the national civil aviation agency said 60 percent of flights had been cancelled at Orly, south of Paris, which serves mainly domestic travelers but also some international flights. Fewer flights were cancelled at Charles de Gaulle airport on Wednesday, the main international hub northeast of Paris, but travel to northern and eastern Europe was particularly affected, he said. Unions are protesting against a planned reorganization of air traffic control around Paris that could involve relocating some staff and which the government says is needed for safety reasons. **The government said it would stand firm against the protest, the latest in a series of strikes before regional elections next month, which are seen as a mid-term test of its performance.** The strike is due to last until Friday but air traffic staff voted on Tuesday to issue an ultimatum to management that they will stop work again after the weekend if their demands for talks and the withdrawal of the planned changes are ignored.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/02/19/biz.trav.france.strike.reut/index.html>

9. *February 19, CNN* — **Runaway train death toll mounts.** Rescue crews using heavy equipment are picking through the rubble of several Iranian villages flattened when a runaway train carrying fuel and chemicals derailed and exploded, killing almost 300 people. Vahid Barakchi, secretary of the provincial emergency department, put the death toll from Wednesday's explosion and fire at 295, with another 450 injured, according to IRNA, Iran's state-run news service. **The disaster is likely to prompt angry questions about how such a lethal cocktail of chemicals could all be in the one train convoy.** Fears of further blasts initially hampered emergency services from determining the full extent of the death and destruction from the horrific disaster, caused when the train derailed and then exploded near the ancient city of Neishabour, about 640 kilometers (400 miles) east of the capital Tehran. The

disaster began when 51 train cars of petrol, fertilizer and sulfur products careered down the line, apparently separated from their locomotive by an initial blast at Abu Muslim station, outside Neishabour. **The cars — which included 17 loaded with sulfur, six with petrol, seven with fertilizers and 10 with cotton — then hit a stationary train at the Khayam train station, caught fire and additional explosions occurred hours later as firefighters and villagers crowded nearby, IRNA reported.** Iranian seismologists recorded a 3.6-magnitude tremor at the exact time of the blast.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WORLD/meast/02/19/iran.train/index.html>

10. *February 19, The News Tribune* — **Low-cost airline flight to Europe? ATA studies pioneering plan. Indianapolis-based ATA Airlines Inc. could become the first U.S. low-cost carrier to provide scheduled service to European destinations, the airline's vice chairman said Tuesday.** James Hlavacek said the airline, which flies an all-Boeing fleet in its scheduled service, said it's only a matter of time before the low-cost phenomenon spreads to trans-Atlantic flights. While ATA has not announced European service, the airline has carefully studied the possibility. Low-cost American carriers traditionally have confined their routes to North America. Hlavacek said no market niche remains safe from the new wave of low-cost carriers.

Source: http://cnni.wyellowbrix.com/pages/cnni/Story.nsp?story_id=47280276&ID=cnniw&scategory=Aviation:Commercial&

11. *February 19, Transportation Security Administration* — **DHS pledges over \$185 million to help Atlanta and Phoenix airports meet security demands.** The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today, February 19, signed "Letters of Intent," also known as LOIs, with two airport authorities to help defray the costs of installing permanent explosives detection systems integrated with the airports' checked baggage conveyor systems. **The two airports are the Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.** They are the latest to enter into such arrangements with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), an agency of DHS. This third round of agreements projects Federal funding of \$93.75 million for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and \$91.5 million for Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. These funds, along with agreements signed this past summer for Seattle-Tacoma, Dallas/Fort Worth, Logan (Boston), Denver, McCarran (Las Vegas), Los Angeles and Ontario (California) International Airports bring the total amount of projected funding to more than \$955 million. **Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge said, "Full in-line baggage screening is a crucial element in our overall homeland security strategy. The 'Letters of Intent' will speed the process of installing this critical security equipment at these airports."**

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198008816a>

12. *February 19, National Journal* — **Homeland Security requests technology proposals for cargo security. The "competitive arm" of the Homeland Security Department on Wednesday reached out to the private sector about making proposals to the department for technologies to detect radiological and nuclear threats.** "We're the competitive arm of the science and technology directive," Jane Alexander, deputy director of the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA), told the executives at a "bidders' conference" in the Washington area. The companies gathered to get more information about HSARPA's early February call for tech proposals. The technologies would be deployed to

detect the threats in cargo, parcels, warehouses, ships and trucks. In its first and second year — as part of the one-year-old larger department — HSARPA should be considered an "experiment," Alexander said. Officials plan to "pause" and assess each project after it is finished, she added. Contracts are scheduled to be awarded in May and June, and the solicitation for the bid closes in February 2005.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021804tdpm2.htm>

13. *February 19, Associated Press* — **Plan for U.S.–Mexico border fence rejected.** California regulators denied a government request to fortify the westernmost stretch of the U.S.–Mexico border, setting the stage for a possible legal battle. **The California Coastal Commission on Wednesday found that the harm the project would cause to sensitive habitats outweighed security benefits provided by filling in canyons and erecting additional fences along the final 3.5 miles of the border before it meets the ocean.** The U.S. Border Patrol insisted the fortifications were needed to deter illegal border crossers and protect its agents. They said they planned to challenge the commission's ruling.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/West/02/19/border.fence.ap/index.html>

14. *February 18, National Journal's Technology Daily* — **New technology drives changes in border policy.** The infrastructure at border crossings and other points of entry to the United States will look completely different in the next few years, driven in part by new technologies, a senior Homeland Security Department official said on Wednesday. "We're halfway through restructuring our border policy," said Stewart Verdery, assistant secretary for policy and planning at Homeland Security's directorate on border and transportation security. **But changes may not happen as quickly as Congress and some others want. Verdery said only three or four nations appear to be on track to complying with a law requiring that they implement biometric-readable passports to enter the United States by late October 2004.** The Bush administration also is looking at possible changes to requirements for U.S. and Canadian citizens crossing the northern U.S. border. Verdery said that the use of counter-terrorism technologies for non-terrorist criminals is decided on a system-by-system basis but that law enforcement agencies are very much involved.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/021804tdpm1.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *February 18, Reuters* — **Postal service could deliver medicine after attack.** The U.S. Postal Service could be dispatched to deliver antibiotics to people in their mail in the event of a biological attack under a plan being developed by the service and other government officials. **The postal service could use its network of more than 170 million addresses to speed the distribution of medication to residential areas in the event of a catastrophic incident.** The Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security are working with the postal service to coordinate the plan that is still in its infancy. Under the tentative plan, antibiotic deliveries most likely would be made directly to the homes of those individuals who were contaminated rather than where the biological agent was found, said Gerry McKiernan, a spokesman for the U.S. Postal Service. **The Postal Service would only be asked to help distribute the medication if other U.S. health services were overloaded in an**

emergency.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=570&ncid=753&e=4&u=/nm/20040219/sc_nm/security_medicine_dc

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Agriculture Sector

16. *February 19, USAgNet* — **House panel wants cattle testing expanded.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) should significantly expand its testing of U.S. cattle for mad cow disease, after questions were raised about how the government discovered the nation's first case, the House Government Reform Committee said on Tuesday. **The committee urged the USDA to test all adult cattle too sick or injured to walk for mad cow disease, as recommended by an international review panel.** The review panel earlier this month reported a "high probability" for more mad cow cases in the U.S. and recommended a package of tough new safeguards to prevent further spread. **The USDA is considering the new measures.** The committee said the USDA should test the 200,000 so-called downer cattle for mad cow disease. The department expects to test 40,000 cattle this year, out of the 35 million slaughtered annually.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.cfm?Id=175&yr=2004>

17. *February 19, Reuters* — **Bird flu case reported in British Columbia.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency said on Thursday it was investigating a case of bird flu at a farm in British Columbia. **An agency spokesman said initial tests identified the strain of avian influenza as H7, the same strain found recently in Delaware, but it was still being investigated.** "The industry is extremely concerned: we're worried about it," said Lisa Bishop, spokesperson for Chicken Farmers of Canada. Bishop said birds on the farm will be killed and birds on farms within a three mile radius will be tested.

Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N19487570.htm>

18. *February 18, Reuters* — **Mexico to visit U.S. on mad cow crisis.** Mexican agriculture officials will visit Washington on Thursday and Friday this week to evaluate U.S. progress on preventing the spread of mad cow disease. **Javier Trujillo, in charge of the Mexican agriculture ministry's animal health division, said the Mexican team would review U.S. containment measures and advances in replacing mechanized de-boning methods with human workers at U.S. meat plants.** "While they did not tell me explicitly, appears to be in order to tell us of the advances they have made, which they seem to feel are practically complete; and that's what I am going to see on Thursday and Friday," he said. Trujillo said Mara Gonzalez, in charge of monitoring animal health issues in agricultural imports and exports, will join him on the two-day visit at the invitation of U.S. officials. **Mexico is the number two importer of U.S. beef. More than two dozen countries, including Mexico, shut their borders to U.S. cattle and beef imports after the discovery of mad cow disease in a Washington state cow in December.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/nm/20040218/hl_nm/mexico_cow_dc_1

19. *February 18, Associated Press* — **EU fails to lift biotech crop ban.** The European Union (EU) deadlocked Wednesday on lifting its 6-year-old moratorium on new biotech foods, failing to agree on a proposal to approve a U.S. company's Roundup Ready corn for import and processing. The EU's executive commission said the proposal failed to win enough support from a committee of experts from the 15 EU countries, although it came closer than on the first such application in December. Nine countries voted in favor of lifting the moratorium on Wednesday with five against and Germany abstaining. Each country's vote is weighted based on size, however, so the application failed even though a majority of countries was in favor. It now goes directly to government ministers. If they don't make a decision in three months, the file returns to the commission, which can adopt it on its own.
Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/ap/20040218/ap_on_bi_ge/eu_biotech_2

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

Nothing to report.

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Public Health Sector

20. *February 19, US Newswire* — **OSHA, AOHP form alliance.** An alliance was formed Thursday between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Association of Occupational Health Professionals (AOHP). **The focus of the alliance is to provide AOHP members and others with information, guidance and access to training resources that can help reduce and prevent exposure to hazards associated with patient-handling, bloodborne diseases, and bioterrorism, and to address implementation issues in healthcare facilities.** Key to the Alliance is the development of workplace safety and health curricula for training and education programs on patient handling, and bloodborne pathogens for healthcare institutions and workers. OSHA and AOHP plan on seeking opportunities to jointly develop and distribute information at conferences, events, and through media outlets. Additionally, personnel from OSHA and industry safety and health professionals will cross-train in AOHP's best practices or effective approaches, as jointly determined by both organizations.
Source: http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=108-0219200_4

21. *February 19, University of Rochester Medical Center* — **Protein helps immune system strike against flu viruses.** Researchers at the University of Rochester have identified a protein in the immune system that appears to play a crucial role in protecting against deadly forms of influenza, and may be particularly important in protecting against emerging flu viruses

like the avian flu. The researchers believe that a vaccine made with a live but weakened strain of flu virus may activate this part of the immune system and offer the best defense against avian flu. The researchers report that a protein called VLA-1 enables the immune system to develop "peripheral immunity" by anchoring millions of virus-killing cells to tissues along the airways and lungs, where flu enters the body. The protein holds the cells in place and helps them survive there for long periods where they stand ready to mount an immediate attack on the flu virus. In a series of experiments, mice whose T cells were able to make the protein were able to develop peripheral immunity, and 90 percent of them survived after being infected with a potentially deadly strain of flu.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-02/uorm-phi021904.php

22. *February 19, BBC News* — **Plague vaccine. United Kingdom researchers have made a crucial breakthrough in the development of a vaccine against the plague. The bubonic plague, which killed millions in Europe in the Middle Ages, is now one of the most deadly agents available to terrorists. Researchers at the Ministry of Defense's Porton Down laboratory say a vaccine could be licensed "within one to two years."** The bubonic plague is caused by the *Yersinia pestis* bacterium that can infect rodents. It is usually transferred to humans by fleas. If it is untreated, bubonic plague kills around 60 percent of victims. **A vaccine could be used to protect troops against the dangers of biological warfare, and to protect people living in areas where the plague is rife.** Researchers recently carried out safety tests of the vaccine in humans. They showed the vaccine produced no side-effects, meaning larger scale trials can go ahead. Scientists at Porton Down have been working on a vaccine for bubonic plague since the 1991 Gulf War, when it emerged that Iraq had been developing stocks of chemical and biological weapons including plague.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3502361.stm>

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Government Sector

23. *February 19, U.S. Newswire* — **NLC: 3000 city leaders will call for federal partnership to strengthen the nation.** The National League of Cities (NLC) will call attention to the importance of strong cities for a strong America at its annual Congressional City Conference March 7-9, at the Hilton Washington and Towers in Washington, DC. **More than 3,000 delegates representing the nation's cities and towns will attend workshops and encourage Congress and the administration to partner with local governments in several areas including homeland security, public safety and jobs.** Among other requests, the National League of Cities will push Congress and the administration to: Support local homeland security through continued strong support for all first responders including direct funding to cities and regions with populations greater than 100,000 and to high-threat communities; help protect hometown America through effective policies and continued and adequate funding for important public safety programs such as COPS and for gun safety, drugs, and gang violence initiatives; and strengthen local economies and reduce congestion by increasing investment in and local control of regional highway and transit and by providing continued and adequate funding for Amtrak.

Source: <http://releases.usnewswire.com/GetRelease.asp?id=153-02192004>

Emergency Services Sector

24. *February 19, Nashville Business Journal* — **Two Tennessee public broadcast stations getting \$1.8 million grant.** The Upper Cumberland Broadcast Council and West Tennessee Public TV Council are set to receive \$1.8 million in grant money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. **Both stations are working with the state to develop a statewide Tennessee network for training and professional development for teachers, emergency first responders, and homeland security.** In support of this network, the grant will also facilitate a fiber connection from these stations to WNPT Nashville, the hub of the state's networking operations. The grant funds will allow both stations to conduct a full power transmitter upgrade and provide multi-cast and high definition service to their regions.

Source: <http://nashville.bizjournals.com/nashville/stories/2004/02/16/daily38.html>

25. *February 19, KRT Wire* — **Ghost town getting new life as 'terrorist' target.** Isolated in the high desert mountains, Playas, NM, once shimmered like an oasis, its green lawns visible for miles; now it is just 60 people away from a ghost town. Now, a New Mexico university is about to take over the cactus-tough village and turn it into a terrorist response training camp for Homeland Security Department agents, the military and emergency responders from local and state agencies. **Once the transformation of the suburban-like community is complete as early as this summer, the site will be the only anti-terrorism facility in the nation that uses an entire, real town for emergency training, according to officials with New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, which is purchasing the town for \$5 million from Phelps Dodge Corp.** Such training now occurs largely on military bases or college campuses, including at New Mexico Tech in Socorro, where three cars a week are blown up on a 40-square-mile range to train firefighters and others on handling car bombs, officials said. "New Mexico Tech already does training for first responders and our expertise is explosives. We take them out and blow things up, but those are at test ranges," said Van Romero, vice president of research and economic development at the 1,800-student public university. "Now that we have Playas, we can do it in a real urban environment."

Source: <http://www.sunherald.com/mld/sunherald/news/nation/7992303.htm>

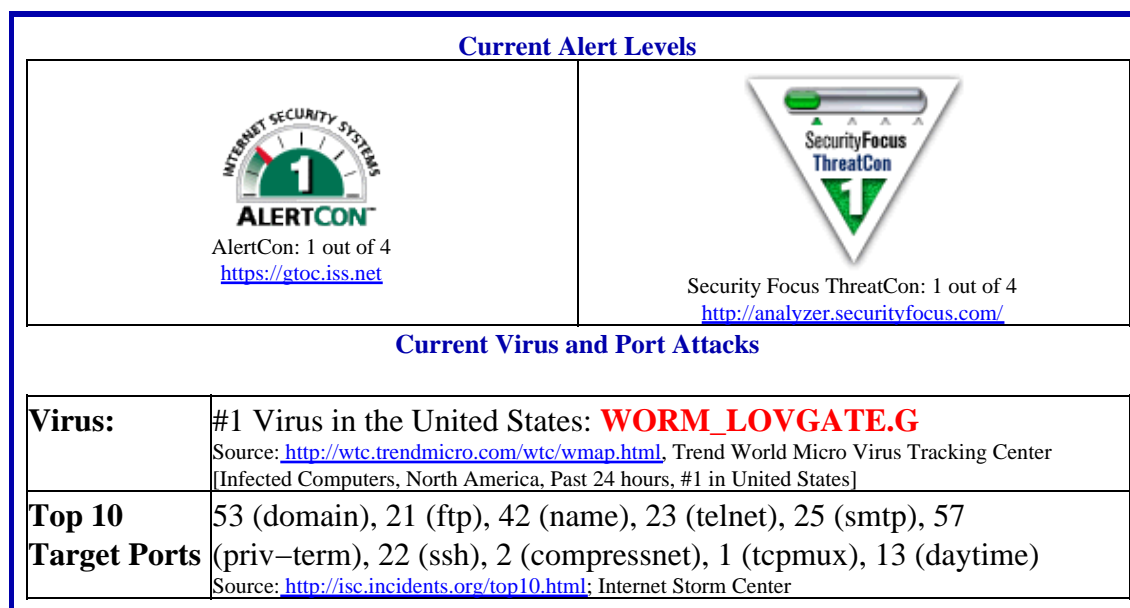
Information and Telecommunications Sector

26. *February 19, CNET News.com* — **Linux servers at risk from trifecta of flaws.** Three separate security flaws could be used by an ordinary user to gain total control of a Linux server or workstation, security researchers have warned. **Two of the vulnerabilities lie in the way the Linux kernel—the core of the open-source operating system—manages memory.** They affect all current versions of Linux, according to advisories released on Wednesday by iSEC Security Research, a Polish security company. **The third flaw affects the module for the kernel that supports ATI Technologies' Rage 128-bit video card.** Because Linux is frequently used on shared servers, security holes that allow a user to expand their access

rights on a computer are serious, said Alfred Huger of Symantec. However, they are not as critical as flaws that allow an outsider to compromise the computer, he said. The Linux Kernel Project released a new version of the 2.4 series kernel—version 2.4.25—to fix the vulnerability. Linux companies and projects that package their own version of Linux have rushed to deliver updates. Red Hat, Novell's SuSE Linux, Debian and other Linux distributions had released fixes by Thursday, February 19.

Source: http://news.com.com/2100-1002_3-5162055.html?tag=nefd_top

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

27. *February 19, Voice of America* — **Nuclear discovery in Iran.** The White House says it is concerned about reports that UN inspectors have found parts of a uranium enrichment centrifuge in Iran. **White House Spokesman Scott McClellan says the Bush administration has "serious concerns" about reports that inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency have found previously undisclosed equipment in Iran that could be used to enrich uranium.** "We have always stated our belief that Iran is developing a nuclear weapons program under the cover of pursuing nuclear power for peaceful reasons. A country with the vast oil and gas resources of Iran has no legitimate need for nuclear energy," he said. McClellan says full confidence about Iran's nuclear program requires that it abandon enriching uranium, and comply with additional protocols it agreed to that allow for broader international inspections.

Source: <http://www.voanews.com/article.cfm?objectID=50ACAE94-1505-47A7-AFE552BA4B9C9751>

28. *February 19, The Baltimore Sun* — **New sketch of serial arsonist released.** Hoping to generate new leads, a regional task force hunting for a serial arsonist believed responsible

for nearly three dozen fires in the Washington, DC area released a new sketch of a man yesterday and increased to \$35,000 the reward for information leading to an arrest. "We want the community to take a second look," said Prince George's County Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell, spokesman for the 13-agency task force that includes federal, state and local authorities. **Most of the fires occurred between midnight and 6 a.m., authorities said. And in most cases, someone — authorities believe it is one man — ignited a flammable fluid outside the front or rear entrances of buildings housing sleeping occupants.** Five fires were set inside apartment buildings. The linked arsons are connected by what sparked them: reportedly a container filled with gasoline with an improvised cloth wick. Since they began last March, the arsons have killed an 86-year-old grandmother, injured 10 others and caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages, authorities said.

Source: <http://www6.lexisnexis.com/wpublisher/EndUser?Action=UserDisplayFullDocument&orgId=34&topicId=17906&docId=1:77028845&start=1>

29. *February 19, Associated Press* — **U.S. soldier charged in al Qaeda probe. A National Guardsman is accused of trying to pass intelligence to U.S. military personnel who were posing as al Qaeda operatives, allegedly telling the phony terrorists that "I share your cause." Spc. Ryan G. Anderson is charged with three counts involving attempts to supply intelligence to the enemy.** The Uniform Military Code says attempts to aid the enemy can be punishable by death. The charges do not allege that Anderson ever actually passed information to real al Qaeda members. Anderson was arrested February 12, just weeks before his brigade was to leave for duty in Iraq. The conduct alleged in the charges occurred between January 17 and February 10, the documents indicated. Anderson, 26, of Lynnwood, WA, is a tank crew member from the Fort Lewis-based 81st Armor Brigade. The 2002 Washington State University graduate converted to Islam in college. He joined the Guard on May 15, 2002, Barger said. Anderson complained in a November 2002 letter to the Herald of Everett about bigotry in the United States.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-soldier0219.0.690162.story?coll=ny-nationalnews-headlines>

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The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipic.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

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